

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-05 IO-13 MCT-01 /076 W
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P R 271630Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2882
INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AEMBASSY ACCRA 2870
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR GH TO
SUBJ: MINISTER OF INFORMATION MAKES REFUTATION OF GHANIAN ALLE-
GATIONS OF TOGOLESE INTERFERENCE IN GHANA

1. ON SEPT 26 MINISTER OF INFORMATION KWAОВI BENYI JOHNSON
ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT EXPRESSING TOGOLESE "STUPEFACTION"
AND "INDIGNATION" OVER AN ACCRA DISPATCH TO THE EFFECT THAT
THERE EXISTED IN TOGO A TRAINING CAP FOR GHANIANS TO PERFORM
ACTS OF SABOTAGE AND SUBVERSION IN "BRITISH EX-TOGO."
JOHNSON SAID THAT THIS ACCUSATION WAS "GRATUITOUS"
AND "TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION." JOHNSON STATED THAT TOGO
HAD ALWAYS CONDEMNED TERRORISM IN ALL ITS FORMS AND
WAS PROFOUNDLY ATTACHED TO PEACE AND DIALOGUE.

2. JOHNSON SAID SUCH ALLEGATIONS THAT TOGO WAS HARBORING
FOREIGN SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING
SABOTAGE AND SUBVERSION IN A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY COULD NOT
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WITHSTAND ANY SERIOUS ANALYSIS AND THAT TOGO WAS PREPARED
TO WELCOME AT ANY MOMENT AN OAU COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WHICH
COULD INVESTIGATE THE FALSENESS OF THESE ASSERTATIONS."

3. FURTHER, JOHNSON POINTED TO THE TOGOLESE ROLE IN
HELPING START ECOWAS AND PARTICULARLY THE TOGOLESE AND
NIGERIAN EFFORT TO PROPOSE A NON-AGGRESSION TREATY AS AN

ANNEX TO THE ECOWAS TREATY.

4. ACCORDING TO JOHNSON, PRESIDENT EYADEMA HAD NEVER "TAXED THE PRESENT AUTHORITIES OF GHANA WITH THE HISTORICAL PROBLEM OF BRITISH EX-TOGO" WHICH, ACCORDING TO JOHNSON, "IS AN OLD PROBLEM INHERITED BOTH BY GHANIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT." JOHNSON SAID THAT "SINCE THIS WAS A GRAVE AND SORROWFUL PROBLEM TOGO HAD REPOSED ITS CONFIDENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO FIND A HUMANE SOLUTION."

5. REFERRING TO "GHANIAN GOVERNMENT" ACCUSATIONS THAT TOGO WAS "ORGANIZING, PLANNING, DIRECTING AND FINANCING THE SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES ALONG THE GHANIAN-TOGOLESE BORDER IN A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO SABOTAGE THE GHANIAN ECONOMY," JOHNSON SAID THAT TOGO VEHEMENTLY DENOUNCED SUCH ACCUSATIONS WHICH WOULD TEND TO MAKE THE TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FRAUD WHICH IS AN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL PHENOMENON UNFORTUNATELY CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR COMMON FRONTIERS." THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION ENDED HIS DECLARATION BY SAYING THAT TOGO, AS A LEADING MEMBER OF ECOWAS, HAD NEITHER CONCEIVED NOR ORGANIZED ANY FORM OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE AGAINST GHANA, A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE OAU AND ECOWAS.

6. COMMENT: GHANIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT MAJOR GENERAL E K UTUKA, BORDER GUARDS COMMANDER, RECENTLY MADE VISITS TO BORDER POSTS AT AFLAO AND KPOGLO IN ORDER TO BUCK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UP TROOPS IN THESE AREAS. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF A SEPT 22 SCUFFLE BETWEEN TOGOLESE AND GHANIAN BORDER GUARDS OVER A SMUGGLING INCIDENT. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHICH SPECIFIC NEWS REPORT MINISTER JOHNSON WAS REACTING TO, BUT SUCH REPORTS HAVE PROVIDED A CONVENIENT PEG FOR THE ANNUAL EFFORT OF THE TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT TO ATTEMPT TO BRING THE TOGOLAND ISSUE BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS. PALMER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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